

*Please change the paragraph on page 15, lines 14 - 24, to read as follows:*

The following terms will be used hereinafter in relation to the pattern images picked up by the reader on a plane xy parallel to the reference plane XY:

$H_{ULC}$  = horizontal dimension of the top left pattern;

$H_{URC}$  = horizontal dimension of the top right pattern;

$H_{LLC}$  = horizontal dimension of the bottom left pattern;

$H_{LRC}$  = horizontal dimension of the bottom right pattern;

$V_{ULC}$  = vertical dimension of the top left pattern;

$V_{URC}$  = vertical dimension of the top right pattern;

$V_{LLC}$  = vertical dimension of the bottom left pattern;

$V_{LRC}$  = vertical dimension of the bottom right pattern.

### **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend independent claims 1, 23, 24, 31, 53, 54, 59, 60, 61, and 62 as follows:

1. {THRICE AMENDED} An aiming device for visually indicating a reading zone, comprising at least one illuminating assembly active on a reading zone portion along an optical emission path, said at least one illuminating assembly comprising:

a light source for emitting a light beam;

a diaphragm having a preset shape for selecting as shaped light a portion of the light generated by said source, thereby allowing propagation of said selected portion of the light beam and preventing propagation of a remaining portion of the light beam; and

a converging lens placed downstream of the diaphragm for collecting the shaped light coming from the diaphragm and projecting said shaped light onto the reading zone portion, thereby providing on the reading zone immediate visual feedback regarding the position of said shaped light relative to the reading zone.